

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ladwig called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Ladwig, Davies. Baker was absent. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Eli Naffah, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

**II. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – *No closed session.***

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion (Ladwig/Miller) to move approve the agenda as amended; Moving agenda #5 up to first in order. Passed 4-0.*

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 01-09-19 cc revised, 03-13-19 cc**

*Motion (West/Miller) to approve the revised 01-09-19 as corrected. Passed 4-0.*

*Motion (Miller/West) to approve the 03-13-19 cc minutes as written. Passed 4-0.*

**VI. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**West:** HCAOG: Discussion regarding regional housing needs.

**Miller:** RCEA discussed offering 100% renewable energy by 2025, and new policies for solar buy-back, renewable energy, and a secondary energy feed into the County.

**Davies:** Trails Committee update. HSU students continuing their work on a maintenance policy.

**Ladwig:** Nothing to report.

**VII. STAFF REPORTS**

**City Manager Naffah** explained that he attended a conference last week and emergency preparedness was a topic of discussion. Spent his first month meeting with staff (both contract and local), and wants to see the General Plan work its way to the Council soon – one element at a time if necessary. Also noted the PARSAC grant program awarding \$10,000 for risk reduction projects that the City is currently working on.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

*(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)*

**Patti Fleschner – Trinidad**

Hoping to see the occupancy tax allocation paid to the local organizations soon. Also thanked City Staff for coordinating repair of the street lights. Reported recent vandalism that occurred to both the Museum and HSU Marine Lab.

**Ben Morehead – Trinidad Coastal Land Trust**

The City should speak with the School about their micro-grid solar installation project. Regarding Trails, the Trails Committee presented priorities to the Council in December. The Council requested the priorities be brought up during the budget discussion for funding. Provided a copy of the priorities report to the Council and Clerk for reference.

**Dorothy Cox – Trinidad**

The Short-Term Rental Ordinance is due for the 2-year review. Requested information on how public comments become part of the public record.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Financial Statements February 2019
2. Law Enforcement Report March 2019

Councilmember Davies asked if revenue from parking tickets issued in Trinidad come back to the City, and if so, how? City Manager offered to research it and respond to Davies.

*Motion (West/Miller) to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Passed 4-0.*

## **XI. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. Discussion/Decision regarding the Status of Councilmember Jim Baker.**

City Manager Naffah explained that Baker has been out on leave since February, and has officially submitted a letter of resignation.

City Clerk Adams explained that the Council may fill the position by appointment, but since the resignation falls within the first half of Baker's 4-year term, the candidate must participate in a future election to qualify their candidacy for the full remaining term. The City Clerk will begin advertising for the position immediately, and recommended the appointment deadline of the regular meeting in June. The position may remain open for that length of time if necessary, depending on whether a qualified candidate comes forward before the May meeting.

There were no Council or public comments.

*No decision was made. Jim Baker's resignation was accepted and the City Clerk will begin advertising for the open seat immediately.*

### **2. Discussion/Decision Regarding Resolution 2019-17; Establishing the Short-Term Rental (STR) Advisory Committee.**

At the regular meeting on November 14, 2019, the Council appointed members to the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee. The STR Committee held its first meeting in late January and requested clarification from the Council on various process-related topics. After a lengthy discussion at the regular meeting on February 13, the Council suspended the Committee until a formal resolution was adopted that clarified the mission, expectations, and procedures that define how it would operate. Councilmember West agreed to coordinate development of the draft resolution and bring it back for review and consideration.

Council comments included:

**Davies:** The Resolution included in this meeting packet is different from the Council West's version. Why?

**City Manager Naffah** explained why changes were made and stated the Council has the opportunity tonight to make additional amendments if necessary. **Ladwig** and **West** explained the process of drafting the first version, and how they worked together to form the final draft.

Written comments received:

**Kathleen Lake** – Trinidad

Submitted an alternative resolution and supporting letter explaining her disappointment that her version was not included in the packet without notification, and requested it be made available to the public.

Public comments included:

**Dick Bruce** – Trinidad

The draft ordinance covers what I hoped to participate in when I signed up for this committee. Keep it brief and to the point.

**Susan Rotwein** – Trinidad

I agree. The draft resolution is good. I suggest the following edits; 1) strike "neutral" Planning Commission member. 2) The Council should "appoint" not "approve" Planning Commission recommendations for new members or chairpersons. 3) 2-year terms for all committee members. The current Planning Commissioner appointment is neither appropriate nor healthy for this Committee.

**Jonna Kitchen** – Trinidad

How will "neutrality" of the Planning Commissioner be determined? Why would there only be a 1-year term for that position? I don't agree that committee member residency should be a concern. The city has stacks of documents and evidence that the current committee chairperson dislikes STR's.

**Dorothy Cox** – Trinidad

Committee members should be required to live in town...not on the East Coast. I don't agree with Susan. Remove the word "neutral". Before going any further, the City needs a resolution that defines how committees are created.

**Adora King** – Trinidad

I have copies of both resolutions; the one included in the packet, and another version written by Kathleen Lake. Residents or non-resident qualifications should be considered tonight. "It's time to put (our differences) aside." Let's give this committee a try.

**Mayor Ladwig** read aloud a letter submitted by resident **Alan Grau** that criticized city staff, supported the kick-off meeting held by the current committee, supported only residents on the committee, and noted possible conflict of interest and bias's.

Council comments included:

**West:** I agree with revisions that include 2-year terms of office for everyone, residency preferred but not mandatory for all but 1 member, and staggered terms. I'd like to see this committee get to work.

**Miller:** I prefer residents, but the reality is that we need to have a good selection to choose from. I also agree that the Committee should be able to select its own Chair. I agree we need to remove the word "neutrality", and keep this resolution as simple as possible. The draft before us tonight is very clear, and I want to see this committee get to work.

**Ladwig:** I support 1 member from outside the City limits, but prefer them all to be residents. I also support looking at other cities to see how they're handling STR related issues as well. Strike "neutral" and make 2-year terms for everyone. I support the City Manager having authority over additional meetings and believe this is a great template resolution for guidance for future committees.

**Davies:** We are putting the cart before the horse. We need a resolution that defines how committee's are formed, and separate resolutions for each committee created. The real bias here is with the people that make money off the STR commercial activity. Only residents should be included in all committees. Remove "neutral". Committee should appoint its own chair. The Planning Commission needs to be given credit for their independence, and their appointment to the STR Committee should be final. I'm voting no on this tonight and am also concerned with controlling the costs related to these committees.

Additional public comments included:

**Jonna Kitchen** – Trinidad

I have a right to come to this podium and speak without fear of being attacked personally by Councilmembers for my comments. I ask for protection by the Council to prevent this from happening again.

**Susan Rotwein** – Trinidad

Personal attacks are not acceptable in this forum.

*Motion (Ladwig/Miller) to make the following revisions and adopt Resolution 2019-07 as amended:*

- 1) Include "visitors & residents" in the Purpose section.
- 2) Membership may include 1 outside-city resident.
- 3) Remove "neutral" from the Planning Commission Chair position in the Membership section.
- 4) Change "approve" to "appoint" in the last sentence of the Committee Membership section.
- 5) Allow the Chair to be appointed by the Committee (in the Membership section).
- 6) 2-year terms for all members.

**Motion passed 3-1; Davies-No.**

3. Discussion/Decision regarding Application Proposal for HCAOG Funds to Enhance Crosswalk Safety in the School Zone on Trinity Street

The Humboldt County Association of Governments released a call for projects for their 2% TDA Bicycle & Pedestrian Program. The City has the opportunity to submit an application to request funding for the installation of an enhanced crosswalk system for the Trinity Street recommended improvement to enhance pedestrian visibility and safety at the crosswalk.

In October 2018, the City was contacted by Katie Cavanaugh, Principal of Trinidad Union Elementary School, who was concerned about potentially unsafe conditions along Trinity Street in front of the School. The City Engineer met with Ms. Cavanaugh to discuss and observe the conditions. Following the meeting the City Engineer developed a number of recommended improvements to increase school zone safety. Public Works has implemented several of the improvements included establishing no-parking zones on all sides of the crosswalk, installation of in-roadway signage, and trimming trees for improved visibility. In addition to the improvements that have already been implemented, the Engineer recommended enhancing the existing crosswalk with a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon system, a user-activated flashing light to supplement crosswalk warning signs. It would be double sided, wireless, solar powered, and activated by push-buttons.

The City will need to hire a contractor to install the sign system, and the grant application for this project will request the approximate \$16,000 for the materials and contractor fees. The City would be responsible for any costs beyond what is funded by HCAOG, including staff time.

Public comment included:

**John Dean** – ?

This is a safe intersection.

**Adora King** – Trinidad

Should we dedicate law enforcement time to monitor the issue before dedicating funds to it?

**Dorothy Cox** – Trinidad

No school isn't concerned about safety. This is the slowest part of town and we have too many grants going on right now. Traffic circulation needs to be looked at. Ocean Avenue traffic is getting bad and a traffic study should be conducted.

Council comments included:

**West:** I support the observations and concerns of the School Principal.

*Motion (Miller/West) to authorize staff to submit a request to HCAOG for the 2% Bicycle and Pedestrian TDA to fund an enhanced crosswalk system on the Trinity Street crosswalk in front of Trinidad Union Elementary School, and if awarded authorize the City Manager and staff to proceed with implementing the project. **Passed 4-0.***

4. Adopt Resolution 2019-06; Adopting a List of Projects for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Funded by SB-1, The Road and Repair Accountability Act of 2017.

City Manager Naffah explained that the City is required to adopt a resolution designating projects during fiscal year 2019-2020 which will be funded by SB1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act. The City will receive an estimated \$5,820 in Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) funding in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. City Public Works staff worked with the City Engineer to identify roadway rehabilitation projects to be completed this calendar year, which can be funded in part by the City's RMRA share. The fiscal year 2019-20 list of projects includes repair, slurry seal, and marking of Parker, Hector, Edwards, and Galindo Streets.

There were no Council or public comments.

*Motion (Miller/West) to adopt Resolution 2019-06, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Trinidad incorporating a list of projects for fiscal year 2019-2020 to be funded by SB1, and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the project. **Passed 4-0.***

5. Adopt Resolution 2019-08; In support of the Local Dungeness Crab Fishing Industry  
Mayor Ladwig read the resolution aloud.

Public comment included:

**Susan Rotwein** – Trinidad

Thanked the Council for their support and noted the County Board of Supervisors adopted the same resolution last night. She read from a prepared statement that was distributed to the Clerk and Council regarding the impact/devastation that the abrupt closure of crab season has on local fishermen, and urged the State Legislature to do their job.

**Tom Leshner** – Trinidad  
42-year commercial fisherman. Please support this resolution.

**Dick Bruce** – Trinidad  
40-year resident of Trinidad, sport fisherman. Support the resolution.

**Dennis Mayo** – McKinleyville  
Representing local fishermen. This community is the front line of adaptive fishing practices. Please use your authority and contact your State leaders and support the fishermen. The issues are occurring way far south – not here – but we’re affected by it. Support the resolution.

**Dan Cox** – Trinidad  
Welcomed the new City Manager. Thanked the Council for listening. Asked the Mayor to call the State leadership. We don’t deserve this.

**Patti Fleschner** – Trinidad  
Please forward the resolution to State leaders.

Council comments included:

**Miller:** I support a resolution that supports the impacted fishermen and their families. There is a lot of information online that explains this issue. The Council should ask the State to address the financial issues that will occur as a result of the closure. Suggested edits/editions to the Resolution that recognize the court order and provides assistance to local fishermen.

**Davies:** Explained his experiences with fisheries experts that changed their opinion after seeing Trinidad’s fishery. I support the resolution as written. If needed we can write our own letters to accompany the resolution.

*Motion (Ladwig/Davies) to adopt Resolution 2019-08; In Support of the Local Dungeness crab Fishing Industry as written. Passed 4-0.*

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- T.O.T. Allocation
- Committee Formation Resolution
- Trinidad Rancheria Harbor Trust Status Application

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:50pm**

**Submitted by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
Trinidad City Clerk

**Approved by:**

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**Steve Ladwig**  
Mayor